CHIEF SECRETARIAT.

No. 2330—*C.B., dated 2nd—3rd December* 1940.

The following Press Communique dated the 19th November 1940, issued by the Government of India, Department of Commerce, is republished for general information.

By Order,
B. T. KESAVIENGAR,
Chief Secretary to Government,

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

New Delhi, the 19th November 1940.

Department of Commerce.

PRESS COMMUNIQUE.

CARGOES ON ITALIAN, FRENCH, ETC., SHIPS IN NEUTRAL PORTS.

His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom have adopted the following scheme for the recovery of cargoes on Italian, French and other enemy ships (but not German ships) which have taken refuge in neutral ports:—

(1) An Enemy Shipping Claims Committee consisting of Mr. C. W. Bateson of Messrs. Thomas Cooper and Co., London, Mr. J. W. Boyle of the Asiatic Petroleum Co., Ltd. and Mr. Henry Morgan of Messrs. Morgan Brothers, and Company, London, will recover cargoes in any manner it thinks best, and will have unfettered discretion to settle a compromise or refrain from prosecuting any claim.

(2) Cargo-owners are given the choice of permitting the Committee to negotiate for their cargoes or of abandoning such cargoes until the end of the war, but all Cargo-owners are required by an order issued under the Defence Regulations to send to the Committee full particulars of their claims.

(3) All Costs, risks and responsibilities will be met in the first intance by the Committee, but when any cargo recovered is returned to its owner, he will be required to pay all expenses incurred in its recovery *plus* 5 per cent (or such other percentage as may be decided upon by the Committee) of the *c.i.f.* value of the cargo as contribution to the overhead and administration expenses of the Committee. Any excess out of the 5 per cent over actual expenses will be returned to the owners later.

2. His Majesty's Government consider it desirable that the Committee appointed by them should be the sole authority for dealing with the claims of cargo-owners not only in the United Kingdom but also in other parts of the Empire, since in their view the more claims the Committee handles the stronger will be its negotiating power. They have therefore invited India and other parts of the Empire also to come into the United Kingdom scheme.

3. The Government of India are satisfied that the United Kingdom scheme offers cargo-owners in India better prospects of securing their cargoes than if they are allowed to act on their own, and have decided to adopt it. They understand that the Committee has been specially empowered to deal with cases expeditiously, and that the bold methods contemplated are likely to yield better results than ever before obtained in connection with this difficult subject. The Government of India are accordingly issuing an Order under the Defence of India Rules, requiring cargo-owners in British India to submit a return giving full particulars of their claims in respect of goods on Italian, French and other ships (but not German ships) in neutral ports. This return should be submitted by all concerned, and the covering letter should indicate whether owners decide to negotiate for the return of their goods through the Enemy Shipping Claims Committee or to abandon their goods until the end of the war. If cargo-owners intend to abandon their goods till after the war they should also register their claims with the Director General, Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, Calcutta. They will not on any account be permitted to undertake any private negotiations.

GENERAL SECRETARIAT.

No. E. 1711—*Edn.* 34-40-5, *dated 3rd December* 1940.

Mr. G. V. Rudrappa, Merchant, Avenue Road, Bangalore, is nominated as a member on the Committee of Management, Sri Chamarajendra Sanskrit College, Bangalore, reconstituted in Government Notification No. E. 767—Edn. 34-40-2, dated 3rd September 1940.

By Order,
J. APPAJI GOWDA,
Secretary to Government,
General Department.